

I am very disturbed to see Pappas Telecasting joining in the kind of partisan shenanigans that Sinclair has just done. This kind of media interference in our elections has got to stop immediately.

I strongly urge this body to reimpose the Fairness Doctrine that was so casually swept away by President Reagan. A fair and unbiased media is so crucial to a healthy democracy that I have made it my early New Years Resolution as the most important civil duty I could perform as an American who cherishes this country.

Pappas Telecasting Companies' 'donation' of \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates in certain areas is yet another example of a powerful media group abusing its privileged access to the public airwaves.

Localism is not served when a corporate headquarters decides to provide one side in local elections a louder voice than others. During election season, local audiences should be offered genuine debate -- not disingenuous offers to "purchase" an equal amount of response time.

Pappas uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Pappas' actions are legally questionable and cast doubt on whether Pappas truly intends to serve the public interest. Their actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Further, they show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just a returned postcard. Thank you.